

Colorado River, Segment 3(a)

BLM



ESSENTIAL FACTS

Length: 9.3 miles

Corridor Acres: Approx. 3,709

Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreation, Wildlife, Fish, Cultural, Ecological

LOCATION

Beginning at the River Mile 112
and ending at River Mile 99
(Rose Ranch to Cisco Wash)

Moab Field Office

Canyon Country District

Grand County, Utah

2nd Congressional District



Utah State Office



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General Description

The Colorado River from Rose Ranch to Cisco Wash is a remote and scenic flatwater float trip. There is very little development within the river corridor, and the low gray hills of the river banks contrast beautifully with the green riparian zone created by the river. This stretch of the river is quiet and has excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. The Colorado River provides outstanding and remarkable recreation in this stretch of the river. This section is floatable year round, and can be canoed by beginners making it particularly popular with youth groups. Commercial companies extend their Westwater Canyon trips through this section, especially during high water.

Segment 3(a) of the Colorado River provides habitat for many types of wildlife species, both avian and terrestrial. Four endangered fish species inhabit the waters; the riparian corridor is important habitat for ungulates such as mule deer and elk. Avian life is particularly abundant on this stretch of the river, and includes a wide variety of raptors. One of only four known nesting sites for the Bald Eagle within the entire state of Utah is found on this part of the river. Other raptors include peregrine falcons, ferruginous hawks, Swainson's hawks and golden eagles. Shorebirds, waterfowl, neotropical migrants and songbirds all depend on the riverine habitat, which is particularly abundant on this segment of the Colorado River.

Summary

This segment has regionally and nationally significant Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) and designation of this segment would provide a unique wildlife and recreation experience to the National System. Future congressional designation would protect free flow and ORVs. The segment is withdrawn from mineral entry under the 1872 Mining Law by Secretarial Order.

Grand County supports the designation of this segment, and sees the economic benefits provided by the boating industry in the county. There are no anticipated negative effects from designation because there are no competing resource considerations. The entire corridor is managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas and all other surface disturbing activities in the 2008 Moab Resource Management Plan. Finally, the segments both upstream and downstream on the Moab BLM have been found suitable by the BLM and together these segments represent a significant contribution to the integrity of the Colorado River system.

It is interesting to note that Colorado River Segment 3(a) was a Study River specifically identified in PL 93-621 (an amendment to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act). It was found to be suitable as "Scenic" in 1979 in an EIS completed by the National Park Service, in cooperation with the Utah Department of Natural Resources.

Rivers Suitable for WSR Designation on Bureau of Land Management Lands in Utah

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